

7:00 p.m.

Commission on Disability Concerns Meeting Minutes March 18, 2008

**Tempe Public Library,
3500 So. Rural Road, Tempe AZ**

(MEMBERS) Present:

Chair Janie Shelton, Co Vice-Chair Darrell Shandrow, Co Vice-Chair Mason Murphy, Robert Kizere, Cyndi Newburn, Larry Randall, Jacque Olsen, Paul Bennewitz, Nora Nuñez, Tom Ringhofer, Aaron Edgell, Frank Emery

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Matthew Jellison, Linda Bergevin

Staff Present:

Karl Stephens, ADA Compliance Specialist

Guests present:

Rose Smith, East Valley Ride Choice Program Manager

Meeting convened at 7:04 p.m., Chair Janie Shelton called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes:

*Complete minutes of the February 19 meeting were not made available to Commissioners.
Approval of minutes delayed until April 15 meeting.*

Awards Committee minutes for March 6, 2008 were unavailable since meeting was cancelled because only two Committee members attended.

Architecture Committee minutes for March 4, 2008; Commissioner Olsen moved and Commissioner Ringhofer seconded, minutes approved unanimously.

Public Appearances:

None

1. Presentation by Ms. Rose Smith of the East Valley Ride Choice Program

- Ms. Smith presented information regarding the voluntary taxi voucher coupons that are currently available in the City of Tempe. This program started in Mesa some 12 years ago and has also been available in Chandler and Gilbert for several years. This program has been available in Tempe since July 2007, providing \$10.00 worth of discount taxi coupons for the fee of \$2.50. The program offers a low cost way to supplement the personal travel needs each month for seniors over age 65 and people with disabilities who are also East Valley Dial-a-Ride participants. A maximum of \$60.00 in taxi voucher coupons, per person, are available for purchase in any one month at a discounted cost of \$15.00. The City of Tempe provides funding for 75% of the program cost. Complete information about participating in the program is available from East Valley Ride Choice, (480) 962-7433.

There were many questions and comments about program specifics, including feedback regarding making the application process more “user friendly” by providing the application online. Comments also included the need for several in-person, fully accessible customer service locations throughout Tempe to buy the taxi coupons and receive assistance with submitting applications. Commissioner Shandrow made the point that people who are blind need to have payment options in programs like this that are user friendly and provide ease and security, such as the use of a credit or debit card rather than needing to depend upon a sighted person to “help them” go somewhere in person to buy bus tickets. Ms. Smith said that she would take the comments back to the Veolia Transportation staff for review.

2. Dial-A-Ride Update – Darrell Shandrow

- No report

3. Vial of Life – Larry Randall

- Commissioner Larry Randall noted that the group had been given a “Draft” copy of the tri-fold brochure that was previously developed by the Diversity Department. Mr. Stephens reported that he had just been made aware of the document and was asking Commissioners to please take the document home for review and comments within the next 7 days. This would facilitate the next step of having the brochure and the Vial of Life participant information both translated into Spanish and move to the final step of production by community partners at the Marketing Dept. of St. Luke’s Hospital.

4. Report from the Child-Ability Committee – Linda Bergevin

- No report

5. Report from the Committee on Architectural Accessibility – Tom Ringhofer

- Commissioner Ringhofer noted that the Committee is very interested in pursuing all available marketing options to notify the public that they are seeking community input regarding all architectural accessibility concerns and issues that exist within Tempe. Karl Stephens will provide more information to the Committee about available resources, including the City of Tempe water bill inserts.

6. Parks and Recreation Committee Update -

- Karl Stephens reported to Commissioners Frank Emery and Paul Bennewitz that he is on the City of Tempe Parks Board meeting agenda for Wednesday, April, 16, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. and that they may also attend. This will allow the Commissioners to briefly address the Board about accessibility concerns related to Parks and Recreation.

7. Mayor’s Awards Committee Update – Paul Bennewitz

- No Report because the meeting was cancelled with only 2 committee members in attendance.

8. Tempe Rental Housing Concerns – Aaron Edgell

- No report, however, information was provided by Karl Stephens that he is working on some housing related issues specifically regarding a Tempe resident with new rental housing and needing a wheelchair ramp constructed to be able to access her mobile home with a motorized wheelchair. No funds are available through the City of Tempe CDBG grant which requires that the funds be used by the home owner not a renter, as in this particular case. Mr. Stephens will be working with the City Housing Division to acquire more information regarding these grant funds and how to broaden the scope of the services they provide.

9. Diversity/ADA Office Update

Staff Liaison Karl Stephens made the following announcements:

- Teri Metros, Library Manager, has been contacted but she said that since the planned renovation of the Library is just in the beginning of the process to hire an Architect, she really has no information to share with Commissioners at this point about how renovations will affect the building. She said that she will be happy to present to the Commission in the coming months. Two Commissioners voiced expectations that some changes are needed before the physical renovations are started. These changes are programmatic; that they can and should be provided as accommodations as soon as possible. Individual commissioners are encouraged to send their concerns to the Staff Liaison as soon as possible.
- Commissioners were once again reminded that if they had not attended the Boards and Commissions training at the Tempe Learning Center, they should call Brandy Naleski immediately at 350-2905 and register for the April 8 session. Only 8 people had signed up for this training so there are plenty of available openings.

Topics for Future Meetings:

Meeting adjourned 8:40 PM

Prepared by: Karl Stephens

_____*Karl W. Stephens*_____
Staff Liaison, ADA Compliance Specialist